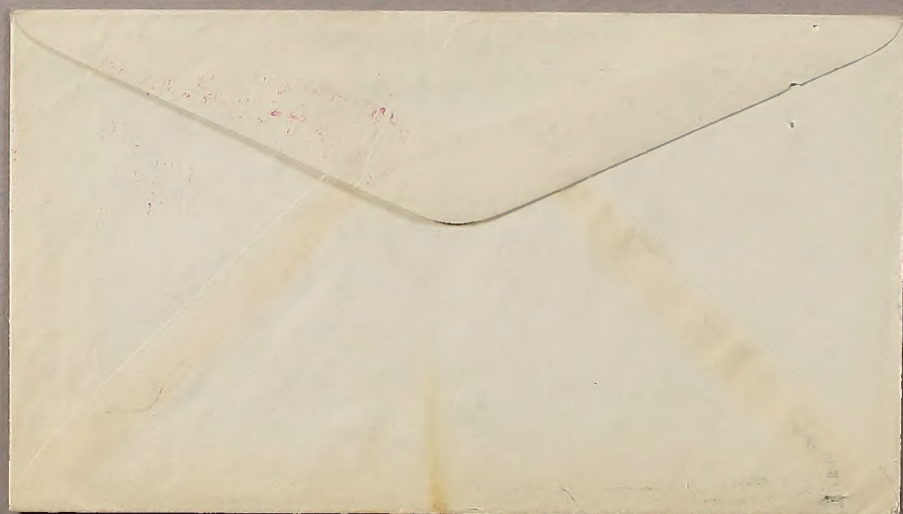


The Globe and Mail
TORONTO CANADA



Miss Kathleen Parlow,
30 Prince Arthur Ave,
Toronto



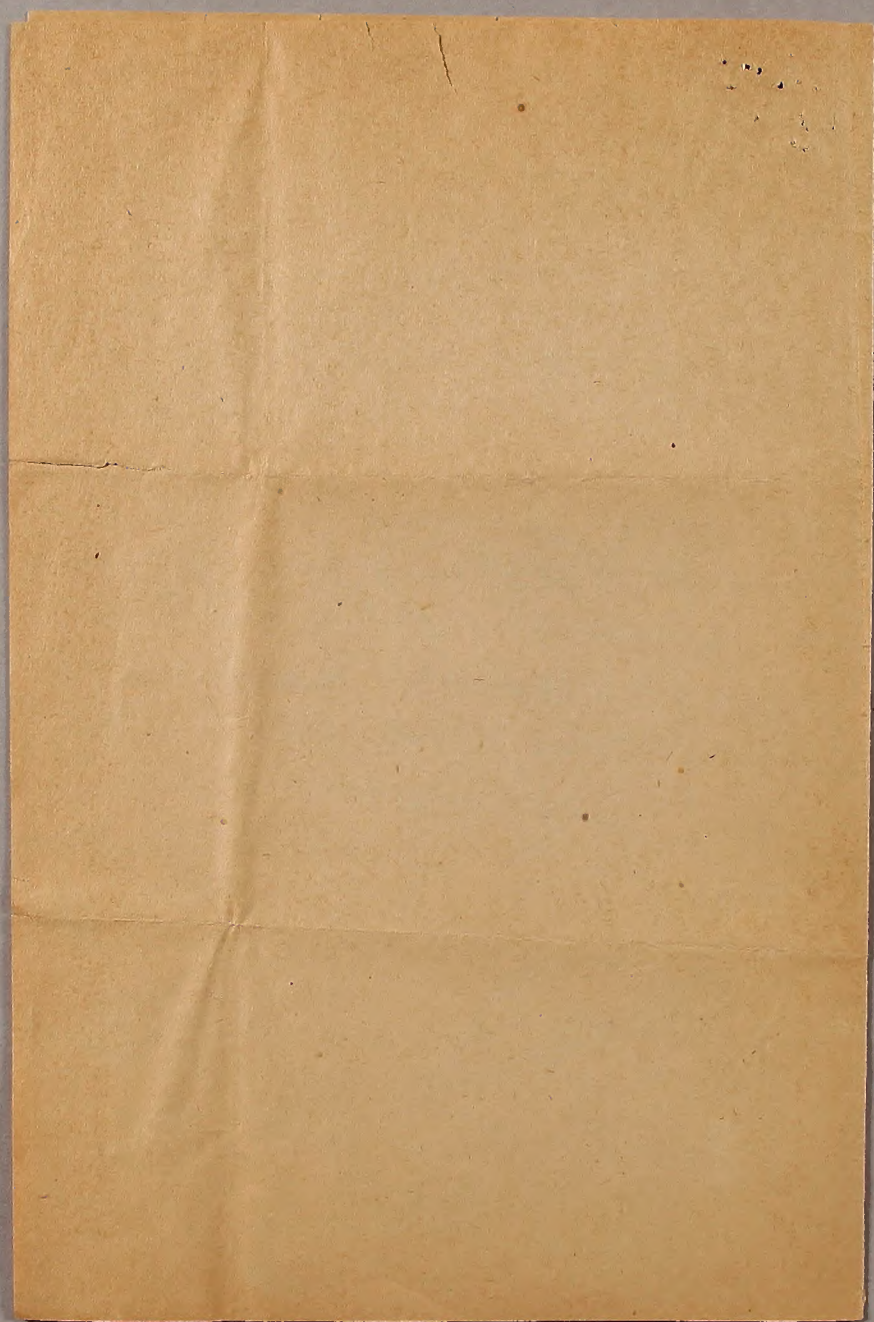
...Søren M. Deacon -

Having ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~admirer~~ who
reads everything you write has
its drawbacks you know - for
instance - the paragraph about
Fridtjof Nansen having been
offered the crown of Norway ~~to~~
It was ^{to} Björnsterne Björnson
the great writer + poet + leader of
the Separatist movement between
Norway & Sweden this offer was
made - Björnson, although
a ~~republican~~ ^{republican} preferring, (theoretically)
a republic advised the Norwegians
to keep their country a monarchy
feeling a republic ^{would be}
~~isolated politically~~ ^{isolated politically} ~~away~~ ^{too far} from France & the
U.S.A. ~~while~~ ^{while} He worked
strenuously to have the Crown
given to the then Prince Charles
of Denmark - who had married

King Edward the 7th's daughter.
hand - thus ensuring England's
interest + protection - finding
the old Björnson completely adamant
in his ^{refusal to} ~~believe~~ ^{the B's} ~~believe~~ united Prince
Charles - ^{with the happy result} ~~who got back on still regard his Norway~~
^{we all know as H} King Oscar of
Sweden was the only ~~unhappy~~ ^{disgruntled}
& ~~disappointed~~ person in the whole
transaction - & after some years
he ^{received} B. in audience -
rushed up to the Norwegian
poet, shaking his fist in his face
saying "You villain, you, you
lost me Norway" - (B told me this himself)
& how do ^{all} And what ^{is} my
authority for this? I had the
honour & pleasure of knowing the
Björnson family very well indeed
including the old gentleman
including the wonderful old who told the above story
man ^{the B's were extremely kind to} ~~gave me the famous~~ ^{also gave me}
~~the famous~~ ^{the famous} ~~quarmerus violin~~ ^{quarmerus violin} - ~~1908~~ ¹⁹⁰⁸

heard so many interesting things
in my many tours in Norway -
None of this is meant to
disparage Fridtjof Nansen - One
of the most fascinating men I
ever met - but merely ~~to set~~
facts in order keep the record
straight - My first tour
in Norway was in 1907 - &
~~you can~~ ^{you can} imagine the topic of
the ~~separation~~ ^{separation} was ^{uppermost}
in people's thoughts - a war
had ^{been} narrowly ~~been~~ averted -
^{even then} the Swedes were quite bitter -

Please forgive
this long screed -
but I felt you would
be interested -
& after all these
are first hand
facts -
With kindest regards
Yrs sincerely -
I would understand I
could not let that go unchallenged -



EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

The Globe and Mail

Toronto,
Canada,

March 21, 1949

Dear Miss Parlow;

Thanks for your letter with its interesting bit of history.

You would, of course, know the facts.

It is some years since I read of the offer I recorded - probably in one of Stefansson's books, but exactly where I don't know and certainly shall not now spend hours searching for. Whatever it was it was I read - possibly a life of Nansen or a history of Norway - was most explicit. I could almost quote the words explaining about scientific interests being paramount, the personal disinclination for ceremonial and the rest of it. Nansen was vividly in my mind as my grandfather was reading Farthest North when I was a boy. So when I came on this episode in the book it stuck sharply in my mind.

Do you suppose that Bjornson was first choice, Nansen second and Prince Charles the third selection?

Sincerely,

B. A. Deacon

P.S. Thanks for reading patronage
but, honestly, nobody is
worth reading all the time.
Literally nobody, not Shakespeare
and most certainly not me.

